

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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Contact: Ernie Seneca
Phone: 919/733-5612

GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES OLF STUDY GROUP, U.S. NAVY AGREES TO PARTICIPATE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Gov. Mike Easley today reached an agreement with the U.S. Navy to form a study group to understand the efforts to locate an outlying landing field (OLF) in North Carolina. The group will be charged with reviewing all aspects of the OLF and making a recommendation within 60 days regarding the overall impact of a site.

“There are people on both sides of locating the OLF in North Carolina,” Easley said. “Today, we have agreed to make an objective and educated analysis regarding the impact of an OLF.

“North Carolina is the most military friendly state in the country, and we will not jeopardize that standing,” he said. “We are going to work with the Navy to get the best possible outcome for the local community, the state and the country.”

The final membership of the OLF study group will be announced Tuesday. The inclusive group will examine the strategic, environmental and economic impacts of the OLF in North Carolina.

Today’s agreement was reached when Gov. Easley met in Washington, D.C., with Assistant Secretary of the Navy H.T. Johnson, Vice Admiral Albert H. Konetzni and Rear Admiral Richard E. Cellon. This follows a meeting last week at the Governor’s Mansion with Vice Admiral Konetzni and Rear Admiral Stephen A. Turcotte, and a meeting earlier this month with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Richard Meyers.

“The Navy is eager to meet and share their information with North Carolina,” Easley said. “There are a lot of questions that need to be addressed, and this step should be extremely helpful toward that end.”

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